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Part IV

Interagency Coordinating Council

Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation: Federal Assistance Programs; Introduction

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1980

TO RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

Reducing our dangerous dependence on foreign oil is one of the most critical challenges America faces during the 1980's. Energy conservation provides the quickest and cheapest way of accomplishing this objective and is a cornerstone of President Carter's National Energy Policy. Executive Order 12185, which was signed by the President on December 17, 1979 in accordance with Section 403(b) of the Power Plant and Fuel Use Act of 1978, extends existing efforts to promote energy conservation through federal aid programs. The President's directive requires that energy efficiency standards be incorporated into all federal assistance programs which offer opportunities for significant conservation of petroleum and natural gas.

Because it is government-wide in scope, Executive Order 12185 is being implemented through the President's Interagency Coordinating Council (IACC). The IACC, which was established by President Carter in 1978 under Executive Order 12075, is composed of key major program managers from each of the domestic agencies of the Executive branch.

In this effort, the IACC has facilitated communication among agencies so that the requirements adopted in accordance with the Executive Order are as uniform as possible. It has also guided and coordinated the drafting of such requirements to ensure timely implementation of the Presidential directive. The federal agency officials participating on the IACC are responsible, of course, for the substance of the energy conservation standards, and for their application to the federal aid programs involved.

The first step in implementing Executive Order 12185 was completed on February 7, 1980. On that date, a consolidated, government-wide list of federal assistance programs which appeared to have significant energy saving potential was published in the Federal Register. The public was given 60 days to review and comment on this list of programs and to suggest rules which would effectuate the purposes of the Executive Order.

After the list of programs was published in the Federal Register, the second implementation step was undertaken. It involved a series of analyses to determine the applicability of Executive Order 12185 to various programs, and to assess basic energy conservation standards that could be incorporated into the affected programs without in any way impairing their statutory purposes.

Initially, these analyses were conducted by interagency working groups which were established around the seven broad functional areas that were used in organizing the February 7 publication. These areas were:

1) Planning and Technical Assistance
2) Community/Economic Development
3) Housing
4) Transportation
5) Public Facilities
6) Energy
7) Labor/Education/Human Resources.

Completion of the interagency reviews resulted in several major decisions. For example, the programs which had been listed separately under the Planning and Technical Assistance section in the earlier publication were incorporated into each relevant program area. It was also determined that since conservation of petroleum and natural gas was already the underlying objective of the federal programs published under the energy section on February 7, further requirements in those programs were unnecessary.

Upon completion of the interagency working groups' analyses, the third step in implementing Executive Order 12185 was undertaken. Each agency developed and refined a variety of proposals specific to its programs to comply with the purposes of Executive Order 12185. These preliminary proposals were published in the Federal Register on May 7, 1980. The public was given 60 days to review and comment on the proposed actions.

Final rules to implement Executive Order 12185, reflecting the public comments received, are being published in today's Federal Register, which is the fourth step in the implementation of the Presidential directive. This publication is the product of extensive consultation among agencies, and careful interagency coordination and analysis. Consistent with the May 7 publication, the requirements published herein have been divided into four broad functional areas:

1) Community/Economic Development
2) Housing
3) Public Facilities
4) Transportation

An energy secure America is contingent upon more efficient use of our energy resources. Because of this fact, the agencies that are publishing energy conservation rules for their major federal assistance programs in today's Federal Register will work diligently to ensure that these rules are applied effectively and efficiently. The Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Energy, will, of course, assist in this important effort.

Eugene Eidenberg
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Chairman, Interagency Coordinating Council

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